

## **Florida Assumption Public Hearing Oct 21 Summary**

Attendees: **186**

### **Registered speakers who spoke at the hearing:**

Annette Taddeo

Lauren Peters

Noah Valenstein

Christina Reichert

Lindsay Dubin

Kelly Cox

Amber Crooks

Preston Robertson

Marjorie Lorand

Lance Pierce

Eric Hughes

David Childs

Jeffrey Shapiro

Gabriel Almedo

Marilyn Vazquez-Almedo

Karen Garren

### **Registered speakers who did not speak at the hearing:**

Ananta K. Nath

Brian O'Brien

Christian Wagley

Mark Behar

Larry Grossman

Richard Hall

Robert Gibbons

Ben Ruby

**Speakers not previously registered who were added during this hearing as time allowed:**

Christopher Emmanuel

John Goolsby

Jen Lomberg

Michelle Mackey

Richelle McClain (spoke twice)

Raymond Schnell

Matthew Schwartz

Ed Thomas

**Registered speakers who chose to speak again 1-2 additional times as time allowed:**

Eric Hughes (spoke initially and then two additional times)

Amber Crooks (spoke initially and then one additional time)

**Summary of major comments:**

- Concerns with FDEP having adequate resources (budget and person power) to run the program and not adding resources
- Concerns that 404 program will pull resources from other efforts such as TMDL and NPDES
- Comments that package was incomplete because it did not contain BiOp and Incidental Take Statement
- Concerns with information provided on Retained Waters (low resolution maps, list too vague)
- Concerns with public participation particularly with ESA consultation (noted the need to FOIA the BE) and with COVID issue
- Concern that FWC financial situation and workload is not part of EPA's consideration
- Concerns with lack of state safeguards that would replace federal programs such as NEPA, Magnuson-Stevens, ESA, and NHPA
- Concern that state has conflict of interest with a bias in favor of helping applicants obtain permits, at times allowing inadequate or missing info from applicants
- Concerns that state isn't as insulated from political pressure as the Corps
- Concern that the 300' guideline for the administrative boundary is arbitrary
- Concern with EPA staffing for oversight
- Positive comments regarding streamlining process, cooperative federalism, FDEP staff already having experience with running wetlands program